

Public Transit Advisory Board
October 12, 2017, 5:30pm-7:00pm
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CENTER, MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

PTAB PRESENT:

Andrew Ooms
Jedediah Smith
Guadalupe Lugo
Samuel Moore
Britta Hamre

GUESTS:

Jillanne Inglis

CITIZENS PRESENT:

Douglas Finney
Lenora Morford
Sarah Wright

PTAB ABSENT:

Carlette Mack
Gretchen Wehmhoff

STAFF:

Abul Hassan
Bart Rudolph
Wes Renfrew
Will Brown
Andrew Watts

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:38pm by **Chair Jed Smith**.

II. ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF, AND GUESTS

After roll call a quorum was present. **Vice-Chair Mack's** and **Ms. Wehmhoff's** absences were noted as excused.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

An announcement was made to those attending by **Chair Smith** that there would be a public comment period in which those wishing to make comments will be allowed two minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the agenda. **Mr. Ooms** seconded the motion. Without objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14 meeting. **Ms. Hamre** seconded the motion. Without objection, the minutes were approved as submitted.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chair Smith invited the members of the public attending to comment. No citizens offered public comment at this time.

VII. BUSINESS / INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Item 7a –Budget Breakdown

Director Hassan presented a graph showing the changes in the department budget compared to hours of service provided from 2016 to what is projected in 2018. He noted that the Assembly will have its first reading of the budget on October 24, and there might be a vote then or in early November. **Chair Smith** noted that he had sent a copy of the resolution adopted by the Board in September to all the members of the Assembly, and he also communicated with Mr. Rivera on a budget amendment. **Chair Smith** is also communicating with his own Assembly members in West Anchorage.

Mr. Moore stated that he met with Assembly Chair Traini, who expressed that he wouldn't cut police or fire budgets. **Ms. Hamre** stated that she had a conversation with Mr. Dunbar and needs to follow up. It didn't seem like public transportation was his top priority. **Mr. Moore** stated that he spoke with Mr. Croft, who understands what the Department is trying to do and believes in it.

Mr. Ooms stated that the issue remains the federal grant funding for service expansion that Director Hassan discussed. For clarification, the time limit on the grant is three years, and it isn't meant to cover 100% of operating costs of the service expansion. The proposed budget is based on the system that was in place in 2016 and there might be enough that can be done to compensate for now, but something has to give, which might be more deferred capital expenditure.

Chair Smith and **Mr. Moore** engaged in a dialogue on the proposed gas tax and whether there was a possibility of a dedicated revenue stream. The discussion was inconclusive on this point but the priority for now was established to be continuing to educate the Assembly on the need to fully fund public transportation.

Ms. Hamre asked for an update on everyone's outreach activities with the stakeholder spreadsheet. **Chair Smith** is working on a letter to the editor. **Ms. Hamre** stated that she is able to put together customized flyers easily if anyone is interested. The goal remains turning people out for the budget hearing, and this can't be overemphasized.

b. Item 7b – October 23

Chair Smith commended staff on the outreach activities that have been happening. **Mr. Rudolph** indicated that the events have been going well. Some people are still upset because they're losing service. **Director Hassan** and **Mr. Rudolph** discussed the behind-the-scenes work that's been going on to technically implement the service change, including the ITS system updates, sign updates, street team activities, and extended customer service hours.

Chair Smith and **Ms. Inglis** discussed the impacts of the new concept requiring people to walk more and wait less and what the Muni was doing to address ADA and maintenance concerns with this. **Chair Smith** was interested in what the Board can do to help the Muni and the state work better together to address these issues. **Director Hassan** suggested that the Board could work on reaching out to the cycling community since there are some common interests. **Mr. Ooms** stated that he has tried to reach out but hasn't gotten a lot of traction.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Moore noted that the departures board on the east side of the Downtown TC has been down for months. He thought it was being removed. **Director Hassan** replied that ACDA's plans for the space are

evolving. **Mr. Moore** also mentioned that someone at his community council mentioned that that offered to adopt a stop last year and never heard back. **Director Hassan** asked for their info to be sent to him. **Mr. Moore** noted that the past several times he's been downtown, the TVM has been down. **Mr. Brown** noted that people often try to force coins into it, and he announced that mobile ticketing through the Masabi platform is in the works and should be live in December. You will be able to buy day, week, and 30 day passes, and half-fares will be available but locked down. **Mr. Moore** stated that this was exciting news. He also asked whether the proposed budget continued to eliminate the 9 holidays. **Director Hassan** noted that 2 of these holidays were eves, which were restored, but it's still 7 holidays that have service removed in the proposed budget. **Director Hassan** also announced that the Department will be piloting an electric bus for 5 months starting in December to test how well it works in an arctic climate.

Mr. Ooms stated that he sent an email to the Board about the non-motorized advisory council for AMATS. There was a meeting last week and there will be 3 more. If there are any specific things that Board members would like to see added to the map, that's most useful at this point.

Mr. Lugo suggested that fair warning should be given about the electric bus so we don't get stuck on it if it breaks down.

Ms. Hamre asked that if anyone wants fliers made, they let her know by the weekend. She stated that she is looking forward to working on things besides the budget fight.

Chair Smith expressed his excitement about some of the changes coming and thanked Ms. Inglis for attending.

Mr. Brown also announced that beginning 10/23/17 through 5/31/17, all middle and high school students in ASD will ride free with their school ID as part of the youth connect program. This is being funded with an exchange of services rather than direct payment by ASD, but the Department is doing it because it's the right thing to do for our youth in Anchorage.

Director Hassan noted that construction on the outside of the Dimond Transit Center should be finished by October 23. During the winter, a remodel will happen inside and hopefully there will be a new coffee shop when the work is done.

IX. NEXT PTAB MEETING DATE

Next Meeting Date: November 7, 2017 – Atrium, Loussac Library.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moore made a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Ooms** seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.